(b) if so, whether the Government of Nepal has urged the Indian Government to prevent Maoists from making Indian territory their base or transit corridor;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the details of the other steps Government propose to take to check Maoists activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) The Government has no evidence that the Maoist have set up their bases in India.

(b) to (d) Government of India is firmly opposed to the recourse to violence and extremism in the pursuit of political objectives. We have condemned the widespread violent attacks by the Maoists in Nepal after unilaterally withdrawing from negotiations last November. We have extended support to the Government of Nepal in its effort to restore peace and security in the country.

Measures have been taken to enhance co-operation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level Talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas. The Special Service Bureau is being deployed along the border with Nepal to strengthen security in the border areas.

Anti-India activities in Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu

827. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu is major hub of ISI activities including terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their clandestine anti-India activities have been brought to the notice of the Pakistan Government;

(d) if so, their reaction in this regard; and

(e) the action taken to provide Pakistan proof of these nefarious activities of the Pakistan Embassy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) The Government is concerned about ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest and is seized of the matter. The Government has noted the several instances of arrest of officials and staffers of the Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu for being in possession of explosives and fake Indian currencies. Such officials have subsequently been asked to leave the country by the Government of Nepal.

2. The Governments of India and Nepal have agreed that they would not allow their territory to be used for activities inimical to the interests of either country. Measures have been taken to enhance co- operation with nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas. Regular dialogue of customs officials also takes place under the Agreement for Cooperation to control Unauthorised Trade. The Special Service Bureau is being deployed along the border with Nepal.

3. Over the last two decades, Government has, on numerous occassions, called upon the Government of Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and other subversive activities against India including from the territories of some of India's neighbours.

4. In their responses, the Government of Pakistan have either blatantly denied any involvement or have sought to justify terrorist violence on the grounds of religion and politics.

5. Recent events such as the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on September 11, 2001, and on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, and the recent murder of a western journalist in Pakistan, have made it increasingly difficult for Pakistan to blatantly deny its involvement in terrorism. Its attempts to justify terrorist violence have also proved futile. The widespread international consensus is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.